

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, April 1, 1892, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Florence (Ferrovia,) April 1, 1892. My dear Alec:

Why don't you write me, I do not think you have any excuse for neglecting your own wife in this way. I thought at least the news of Elsie's illness would have brought a letter, but you are too busy even for this. I do think Helen Keller and the summer meeting might rest for one night. I think I have been very good and very patient so far, but I do think there are bounds beyond which you cannot expect me to go. It certainly is not the way to interest me in your work — to make me jealous of it and that you will allow it to keep you from spending a couple of hours in your wife's society even when you hear she is watching anxiously by a child's sick bed. It is all very well to say that Elsie has never been very ill etc., but I could hardly have been any more anxious at times than if she had, understanding as I did the dreadful and treacherous nature of the disease, and I have not had a word of thought and sympathy from you. What is a cable — a five minutes conversation — lightly made if heavily paid, a letter is at least a half an hours conversation and evidence of thought. You know I have been anxious not only about my child by me, but my husband far away and yet you can't spare me half an hour, I do think you are very unkind.

I have not the heart to write anything more to one who cares so little, the cables did they cost twice what they do would not touch me as much as a sheet in your own handwriting, for I know you don't count the money, don't even know how much they cost. I tell you I am a jealous woman, and that is at the bottom of what you consider 2 my want of sympathy with your work, and you are doing all you can to increase it now, and Mr. Hitz with all his

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goodness is aiding and abetting. Oh Alec I do want you and you don't seem to want me, or you would have to write, you couldn't help yourself.

Ever yours, Elsie sat up today for two hours the first time in near three weeks.